

Unemployment Insurance Scheme

2731. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received the recommendations from the Task Force set up under the Chairmanship of S.K. Wadhawan;

(b) if so, the details of recommendations thereof;

(c) whether the said Task Force has suggested that an unemployment insurance scheme should be formulated which would be the most important component of social security;

(d) if so, the time by which these recommendations are likely to be implemented; and

(e) if not, the reaction of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The recommendations of the Task Force on Social Security include, *inter-alia*, introduction of an Unemployment Insurance Scheme, removal of duplication in entitlement of certain social security benefits, reduction in representation of various interests in the ESIOEPF body, stoppage of withdrawal facility from P.F. for sundry purposes, withdrawal of provisions relating to commutation of Pension etc.

(c) The Task Force has recommended introduction of an Unemployment Insurance scheme to provide to workers in the Organised Sector a reasonable level of periodical benefits during periods of involuntary unemployment.

(d) and (e) The recommendations of the Task Force have got serious financial and administrative implications. Therefore, the entire report of the Task Force has been referred to the Second National Commission on Labour (NCL) for in-depth study. As recommendations of the Task Force would require intensive deliberation by the N.C.L. and later on by the Government, at

[17 August, 2000]

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this stage it is difficult to indicate a definite time frame for implementation or otherwise of the recommendations.

Effect of disinvestment on employees

2732. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of employees and workers lost their jobs due to closing down of establishments in Central and State Sectors, separately till date;

(b) the effect of disinvestment on the job of employees and employment scenario; and

(c) details of the meaning of "Need based recruitment" and "operational requirements" in Central Government offices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) According to provisional information available for 1999-2000 (upto May, 2000), the total number of workers affected due to closure of establishments in Central and State spheres during this period was 21 and 16,608 respectively.

(b) The disinvestments in non-strategic public sector enterprises has been undertaken with a view to improving productivity and achieving a turn around in performance. There is no evidence to show that this has had any adverse effect on the job of employees and the employment scenario.

(c) The needs and operational requirements of Central Government offices are expected to change with the changing role, function and policies of the Government. Whereas some departments⁷ offices may experience need for strengthening, others may require some correction&adjustments in staff officers. Recruitment, therefore, has to be need based and in line with the operational work requirements and functions being performed in Government offices.